National Tribune.

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR. WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1908. VOL. XXVII—NO. 46—WHOLE NUM 13.

REMARKABLE AIR-SAILING.

The Wright Brothers' Machine Leads the World in Aeronautics. Wonderful Exhibitions at Fort Myer—Many High Officials and Officers Among the Spectators—One Flight of 62 Minutes and 15 Seconds—The Machine was Under Perfect Control and Flew Like a Bird—Another Flight for Over an Hour Against a Strong Wind.

Aeroplanes and Balloons.

There is but little real scientific interest in ballooning. The most that can be hoped for in this is an advance in our knowledge of aerial currents and other matters of importance in navigating the air.

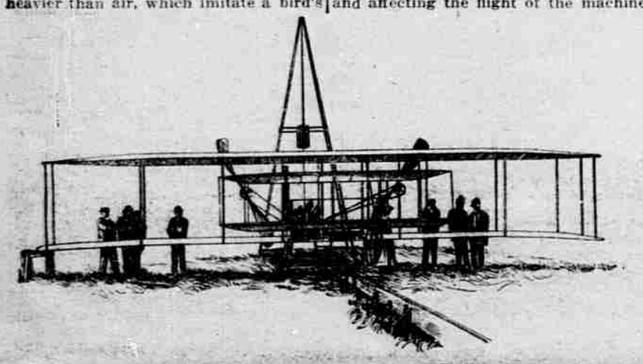
The real interest is in machines heavier than air which will fly like a bird. Military ballooning is largely a fad, and but little can be hoped for it in actual warfare. The balloon is so large and clumsy, the gas-making apparatus is more ponderous than a battery of artillery, and after the balloon is inflated it is a good mark for the enemy's guns. It must either run great risk from these or else keep up so high that observations from it will be exceedingly unreliable.

Balloons were quite thoroly tried during our war, when great expectations were entertained of them. The best results attained, however, were the scares they gave the enemy in the fears by the Confederates that the balloons had discovered vastly more than they ever really did. If the balloons were captive they danced around so that but little could be observed with accuracy, and if they were left free they were at the mercy of vagrant currents of air.

The best use ever made of ballooning was by the French during the siege of Paris, when they did some good work in carrying people into and out of the lines of the besiegers.

It is quite otherwise with machines heavier than air, which imitate a bird's flight. On these rest very substantial hopes of great achievements in the future. The men who have been at work upon these machines have met with great discouragement, and particularly Prof. Langley, the eminent mathematician of the Smithsonian, who devoted the latter years of his life to studying the principles of flight, and who developed a machine called the Buzzard. In spite of the newspaper derision which helped to break his heart, he really discovered much that was of value, and his machine came quite near success.

Other inventors have taken advantage of his work, and are now giving us machines which make success assured.



THE WRIGHT AEROPLANE ON THE TRACK READY FOR AN ASCENSION.

The Wonderful Wright Brothers.

The world has been astonished by the success of the Wright brothers, of Dayton, O. Wilbur Wright has been making some flights at Le Mans, France, which have wakened the enthusiasm of the French people and brought him the congratulations from all over the world of those who are interested in aerial navigation. It is acknowledged on all sides that his machine leads by far all the machines heavier than air that have so far developed in Europe. The Wright brothers were originially bicycle manufacturers, and became interested in the principle that when a broad plane is propelled thru the air the air will support it; that is to say, that if a bicycle had a broad light vane of any kind attached to it it would be lifted from the ground and supported by the air. Gaining sufficient speed, it might be raised entirely off the ground and rest on the air. Without any of the theories as to the flight of birds which have occupied the attention of European students so long they started with this humble intellectual beginning and worked forward amid many discouragements. They spared themselves much annoyance, a multitude of gibes and cheap wit by keeping their experiments secret. They tried these on an isolated piece of ground near Dayton, where there were no spectators, and finally went to North Carolina for still greater seclusion. They worked patiently, bravely in the face of the greatest discouragements and with the highest mechanical skill. At last they had something that they could show to the world, and when they did so everybody interested in the subject took immediate notice, for it was apparent that the new machine was of the utmost value.

Exhibitions in Washington.

First, Wilbur Wright went to Europe, and, as before stated, his performances there aroused the deepest interest. Next, Orville Wright came to Washington, at the invitation of the War Department, and during the last week has given at Fort Myer the most remarkable exhibitions, which have been attended by all of the higher officials in Washington and thousands of the citizens. The interest has been so great and the attendance so enormous that the garrison at Fort Myer has been doing guard duty to hold the crowd back from the place where the machine was housed, from which it started and to which it returned. His first great flight was made Tuesday, Sept. 8, when he was in the air 11 minutes and 10 seconds, during which he circled the drill grounds 13 times at an average speed of 35 miles an hour. The second flight lasted seven minutes and 34 seconds, during which Mr. Wright flew around the grounds eight and a half times. He alighted each time with perfect ease, and had his aeroplane under complete control all the time. On Wednesday, Sept. 9, he made the longest flight ever accomplished in a heavier-than-air flying machine. This was one hour, two minutes and 15 seconds, which is 33 minutes better than any previous heavier-than-air machine record. He followed this by another flight of 57 minutes and 31 seconds, and then made the longest flight of any heavier-than-air machine carrying a passenger, which was six minutes and 26 seconds. It is estimated that he made 36 miles the first flight and 38.5 the second.

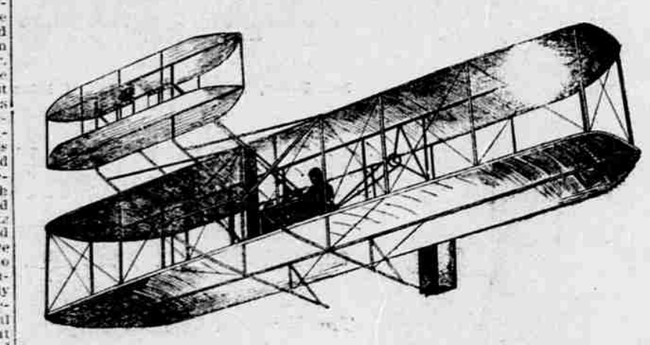
Among the spectators were three Cabinet members; Secretary of War Wright, Secretary of the Navy Metcalf and Secretary of Commerce and Labor Straus, together with practically every Army officer holding an important executive position in the War Department.

Among the Army officers who arrived on the grounds before the second flight were Brig.-Gen. William Crozier, Chief of Ordnance; Brig.-Gen. William M. Marshall, Chief of Engineers; Brig.-Gen. William W. Wotherspoon, President of the War College; Brig.-Gen. Arthur Murray, Chief of Artillery; Brig.-Gen. William P. Duvall, and Lieut.-Gen. Miles, retired. Assistant Secretary of War Oliver was also present, as were a number of scientists, including Charles D. Walker, President of the Carnegie Institute and Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

The only foreign military attache among the spectators was Maj. Fournier, of the French army, who lately returned from France, where he witnessed several flights by Wilbur Wright.

On Thursday Mr. Wright made another astonishing achievement in bucking a 10-mile breeze, which tossed his aeroplane like a ship at sea. He made 58 circles over the parade grounds at Fort Myer, and remained aflight 65 minutes and 52 seconds, during which he went about 43 miles. The highest altitude reached was 200 feet, to which he rose because the wind was hurting his eyes and affecting the flight of the machine. He said that he could have stayed up longer, but the bugs and the wind were slashing his eyes, and he struck baffling air currents, which blew him pretty close to the ground. All the movements of his machine were exceedingly bird-like and graceful, and his control of it complete in every way. He would circle sharply around the end of the field, come back in a straight line, sweep over the shelter house and out into the rough and unbroken country. He would come down to within 15 feet of the ground, and then soar sharply to the hight of 100 feet. When an extra passenger, Lieut. Lahm, who had broken the world's record in ballooning, was taken on board the machine remained near the ground for about 50 feet, and then shot up into the air like a bird, remaining there until Wright decided to descend. He and Lieut. Lahm talked quietly together during the trip, tho it was rather hard to hear on account of the fuss made by the motor.

Mr. Wright was overwhelmed with congratulations and praises by all who witnessed the flight, and since that time has been deluged by telegrams from all over the world. The exhibitions were under the auspices of the Signal Corps of the Army, with Maj. Squier in charge.



THE WRIGHT AEROPLANE IN THE AIR.

These exhibitions are preliminary to the official tests which must be made on or before Sept. 28 to determine whether the machine will be accepted by the War Department in accordance with the offers published last year.

There are other competitors for the prize, and A. M. Herring is under contract to deliver an aeroplane at Fort Myer, for which he will receive $20,000 if he can satisfactorily meet the conditions that Orville Wright has filled. Mr. Herring has telegraphed, asking for a little further time owing to troubles in his machine shop. He was to deliver the machine Aug. 13, but received an extension of 30 days, and asks for still more time. The Wright machine weighs 850 pounds, while the Herring machine weighs only 250. Mr. Herring claims that he has developed the finest motor in the world, of marvelous lightness, two of them only weighing 39 pounds, and that he will be able to fly at almost double the speed of the Wright brothers with two men. The Navy Department was represented at the tests, and it is not unlikely that it will order a machine if the War Department accepts one.

Description of the Machine.

The Scientific American says of the construction of the machine:

"A close scrutiny of the Wright aeroplane astonishes one by its great simplicity. The main planes are slightly arched downward at their ends. Their front edges are perfectly rigid, only their ends and rear edges being flexible. The outer ends of the lower plane at the end and second uprights are connected by a wire that runs thru pulleys attached to the upper plane, while the corresponding ends of the upper plane are attached in a similar manner, with the exception that the connecting wire, in the form of a chain, is carried forward thru pulleys and around the hub of one of the three vertical levers, so that a fore-and-aft movement of this lever causes the rear edges of the planes to dip down at one end and to rise a corresponding amount at the other. Close beside this lever, and in reality forming part of it, is another vertical lever that moves the twin vertical rudder. In making a turn the angle of incidence of the outside end of the planes is at first increased, which causes the machine to rise at this end. The tendency which it has to turn in the opposite direction as a result of the increased resistance resulting from the

MR. ORVILLE WRIGHT.

greater angle is overcome by means of the vertical rudder. As soon as the machine has tipped inward and started to make the curve the positions of the wing ends are reversed, the greater angle then being given to the inner end. If this procedure is not followed, the aviator cannot turn the aeroplane, and it is for this very reason that a wind fails to upset it. The horizontal rudder is operated by a straight inclined rod running directly from the lever to the two superposed surfaces in front. This rudder is used to maintain the longitudinal equilibrium and also for varying the hight. It is operated by the left hand of the aviator, and until his hand becomes used to working it the aeroplane is bound to do considerable bobbing up and down."

Starting the Machine.

The aeroplane is launched from a car which runs upon a railroad. The motors are first started, and when they are ready weights drop from a tower to propel the car forward at a speed of 28 miles an hour in a distance of 50 feet. This speed is sufficient to cause it to rise readily in still air. This method of starting is modeled after that devised by Prof. Langley, but has been improved by the Wrights.

Pickett's Charge.

Editor National Tribune: As a private musician, about all the good I did in the battle of Gettysburg was to bring canteens of water, but I couldn't help seeing some of it. I was certainly astonished, in the afternoon of the third day, to see the boldness of the attempt to break the Union center. The idea of men marching in battle line, three-quarters of a mile across an open plain, within fair range of 20 batteries, looked to me as being foolhardy. And, besides this, the musketry fire which they must expect to face at short range. It is yet a surprise to me that so many escaped alive. This line of the Confederates, from where I stood, looked like one line of battle, about three-fourths of a mile in length; the nearest end being, perhaps, a mile and a half distant. As they came on I could look directly down their line. I am sure they could not have done better if there had been no danger at all. When our musketry opened, however, then came the test. This began at about 200 yards. Still they advanced for more than half the distance, and then most of the line halted. Near their right, at this time, there seemed to be a concentrated effort, and, in spite of everything, this mob, which looked 10 or 20 men deep, broke in over our line. Yet I could see no panic; simply a desperate hand-to-hand fight, lasting, perhaps, a minute. In some way, our men by that time got the best of it, and very soon the whole rebel line were in full retreat. When this break first occurred, the battery men, just in rear, began to hitch up their horses. They were just ready to move when the tide turned. Immediately they unhooked the teams, and as soon as the coast became a little clear, again commenced firing. In the retreat of the Confederates it was every man for himself; looked like shaking pepper out of a box; no two together. About a third of a mile away they all disappeared. (I suppose in some low ground.) Presently, another line rose up from this place, not more than half as long as the first; but, after facing our batteries for a little way, they, too, made their exit. A little later, a third line appeared, still less in extent. These also retreated—almost the first thing they did.

One thing I saw, which I have not seen mentioned by any one: As the first grand line was advancing, I noticed an officer who rode a dapple-gray horse, in rear of the line. As they approached the Union works he began riding at a gallop for a long distance, first one way, then the other, swinging his sword, apparently to encourage the men to proceed. In the retreat this horse was the only one I saw; the saddle was empty; he was alone and was cantering about the field as though bewildered. I think he escaped unhurt. I wonder who this officer was, and if the horse got out all right. I am afraid his owner was not so fortunate.—F. S. White, Co. A, 146th N. Y., Swarthmore, Pa.

"IN THE ENEMY'S COUNTRY."

Both Nominees Preparing to Invade the Hostile Bailiwicks—Is There a Trend Toward Bryan?—Return of the President—The Vice Presidential Nominees—Peace Negotiations—The Congressional Campaign.

Bryan is this minute in the heart of the "enemy's country." Taft is putting on his traveling clothes, packing his grip and making ready for the train that has steam up for a trip into what is claimed to be "Bryan's country." One T. Roosevelt is pacing impatiently on his front porch at Sagamore Hill and peeking upward occasionally as the big thunder clouds push up over the horizon. Whoop-la! The campaign is getting gay.

Yes, the Republicans are a little scared. It is not the scare that precedes the passing of the hat. No, it does not necessarily mean that Bryan is going to be elected President of the United States. It means that the Republicans are waking up, that they now realize what some folks were saying a month or two months ago that William Jennings Bryan is an exceedingly strong Presidential candidate—for the Democratic Party to have—and that nothing can be taken for granted. The Republicans have been deprived of some of their old-time implements for use in campaign time. They have a big job ahead to keep W. J. B. from getting into the White House.

But the Republicans are big enough and heavy enough for that job, the wise men generally agree. They are going to quit loafing around the house and go out into the field. They must.

Trend Toward Bryan.

There is a trend toward Bryan. It cannot be ignored. How much it is election day will disclose. As he has journeyed eastward thru Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland and into New York the evidences of friendly regard for him have multiplied. Perhaps it is the same kind of friendly regard and of wild enthusiasm that was shown for him on the stump in 1896 and again in 1900. Perhaps. Who can say? The trained politicians, and possibly, better still, the trained newspaper observers, who have lived in Washington long enough to care little in the abstract whether one party or another is in power, say these Bryan demonstrations have been little short of wonderful. They say the enthusiasm of the farmers, laboring men and of others who toil is not to be sneered at. The Republicans must reckon with it.

Of course, there is the old answer. Probably no Presidential candidate on the stump was greeted with more enthusiasm than was shown for the late James G. Blaine, and yet he was beaten on election day. The Republicans say that voters cheer Bryan's speeches and vote against him. This year Bryan's speeches are a little different than of yore. He continues to conduct his campaign with more discretion and calmness. His speeches are addressed more to the intelligence than to the impulses of the voters, which is evidenced by the way the Republicans have to take notice of his assertions.

But "Big Bill," of Cincinnati, is making ready. When the engineer turns on the steam and the train that carries the Republican nominee as its most distinguished passenger pulls out of the station for that Republican tour of the erstwhile Republican States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, etc., look out.

"Oh, Bryan will eat him alive some morning before breakfast," say the Democratic enthusiasts. "It's really a shame. Why don't somebody tell Taft to stay at home. The front-porch campaign is the thing for him. He can't get hurt much speaking there."

"Don't fret, my friend," returns the Republican enthusiast. "'Big Bill' is a hard man to chew up before breakfast or any other time. He talks facts. He's no ordinary windjammer. Calm yourself. Wait and see the people rise up and give him a tremendous and continuous ovation as he steams along on his tour."

Of course, the country will hang on the words of these two Bills. For, in all seriousness, Taft's trip thru the Middle West, beginning next week, is a very important one in the campaign, and is expected to be a tremendous vote winner. The Republican managers are counting upon it to arouse citizens from their political letharsy, to explode some of Bryan's arguments, and to bring the doubters over into the Taft camp. While Taft's election is regarded as certain, the fact remains that his Middle Western tour may, after all, decide as to who will be the next President.

If the farmers and the toilers of the West are deserting in great droves to Bryan, and if, as Bryan himself claims to-day, he has the election won, provided he can only hold the strength he now has, there is a chance for the Republican nominee to win back those deserters from the faith. The tour will give the Middle Western voters an opportunity to take a new measure of the man and to pass judgment upon his campaign arguments and to make up their minds whether, after all, they prefer Bryan for President for four years rather than the man whom President Roosevelt has said is best fitted to continue "my policies."

The President Back.

In a few days now President Roosevelt will be back in Washington. The rumor comes from different quarters that he is going to pitch into the campaign, that he will take a hand at flaying Bryan, will tell the country that there is no comparison between Bryan and Taft, that Taft is far and away the best man for them, and so on. The frequent denials from Oyster Bay to the effect that the President will not make any speeches are still fresh in the public mind, but Chairman Hitchcock and Mr. Taft's friends and lieutenants are importuning the President. He is being told that should Taft by any chance be defeated, when he (the President) has kept his silence, the Republican Party will hold him (the President) responsible—him upon whom it has conferred the highest official honors. They are telling him about the Western defections, and about the troubles they are having in stirring up any enthusiasm, and that he, more than any other living man, can give Bryan an effective "swatting."

Men who know the President well do not believe he will remain passive very long under such representations. He likes to be in the midst of things. He likes to "lay on" and make the other fellow cry "enough." And even tho the President may refrain from going upon the stump, there is great confidence among the Republican managers that inside of two or three weeks, whenever the right time comes, he will pen a letter to some friend, who has obligingly written some inquiry to him as to whether a doubting voter ought to take Bryan or Taft as his ideal. And the way the President will enlarge upon the subject and the way he will thump-thump at "Bill of the Prairies" will set the boys to cheering like mad, and will give the campaign great life and spirit, and will enable "Big Bill" Taft to forge ahead in his quest for votes.

The Vice Presidential Nominees.

Meanwhile the Vice Presidential candidates? The country seems to have lost them. Who is paying much attention to Sherman or to Kern? Usually the Vice Presidential candidates are stars upon whom the country is gazing. It is no particular fault of either James Schoolcraft Sherman or of John Worth Kern that this is not the condition now. Usually the Vice Presidential candidates are out on the stump, making a fearful racket. They travel by special trains and they speak at a dozen small stations daily on the way with a big, whoop-er-up speech every evening.

To be sure the Vice Presidential candidates have been exercising their vocal chords a little this Autumn, but they are getting mighty few "spreads" in the newspapers, and the average citizen would have to scratch his head and stop and think before he could tell an inquirer much about what the Vice Presidential candidates are doing and saying. All this may change later on, when the campaign "warms" a little more. But the facts are that the popular interest thus far, whatever there is of it, is centered upon the "big-uns"—the Republican and Democratic candidates for the Presidency.

Peace Negotiations.

Taft leaders, who rendezvous here, express some disappointment at certain developments of the week just past. The good work in advancing peace pacts, which Chairman Hitchcock started early in September, seems to have halted. The campaign is now well advanced. The period for preliminary organization and making ready is over. Several Northern States failed to improve that period with harmony efforts. The final fight for the Presidency is to be made in the next seven weeks. It is now taken for granted that the Republicans must enter upon this battle with the handicap of a half dozen or so serious State quarrels.

If the numerical strength of the big parties had been nearly equal in recent elections, the Washington politicians say these quarrels would be serious indeed. How much of a real handicap they will prove to Mr. Taft, under the present status of Presidential politics, probably will be very uncertain right up to election day. They are in part a consequence of the inter-party quarrels that flared forth two years ago, and resulted in quite a crop of Democratic Governors in the North and in part a consequence of Republican differences in National politics.

The roster of Northern States, in which the Democrats are now supposed to have about an even chance—perhaps better than an even chance—of electing their local tickets, is quite formidable. It includes Rhode Island, Connecticut, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Minnesota and probably two or three small Western States. Democratic optimists would add New York, Illinois and Nebraska. It is worth noting that all these States, with two or three exceptions, such as Rhode Island and perhaps Nebraska, would be almost as certain as Pennsylvania to choose Republican Governors were it not for these pernicious factors. Gov. Johnson got his foothold in Minnesota because the Republican factions fell out with one another, and have never been altogether able yet to adjust their differences.

Old-timers say it is a quarter of a century since such tenacious quarrels have cropped up in the Republican camp. Otherwise these would have yielded ere this to treatment. A good part of ex-Secretary Taft's most energetic effort in the last six months—much of which the public knows little about—has been directed to securing party peace. Since the Chicago Convention he has been ably assisted in that role by Chairman Hitchcock, who would have preferred to devote more of his time to campaign preparations had not these matters affecting harmony been more pressing. The situation has been even more embarrassing, because, apart from the numerous State quarrels, there has been a sectional quarrel, as it were—a very marked difference in the attitude of Republicans of the East and of Republicans of the West. The Eastern Republicans think the Wetsern Republicans are exceedingly unreasonable, and vice versa. As nowadays almost every word and act of a Presidential nominee become known to the voters thruout the Nation, the difficulties of conducting the Republican campaign have been augmented.

Mr. Bryan's optimism, it is learned from his close friends hereabouts, really comes from the continuance of these Republican conditions in divers States. He expects to be a large beneficiary therefrom and to run quite as strongly, if not more strongly, than the several Democratic Gubernatorial candidates. If that should be the case, his chances of election might be bright. But the best observers do not agree with him in such expectations. They think he will only reduce very largely the former Republican majorities in Presidential years, and that he will run behind the Democratic Gubernatorial nominees in Connecticut, Rhode Island, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana and Minnesota. The Democrats are conceding as much with reference to the last three States. Bryan said the other day that he did not regard himself as strong in Illinois as ex-Vice President Stevenson, the Democratic nominee there for Governor.

Recent Democratic Tendencies.

There is more than one reason to expect such an outcome. Many Democrats have acquired the habit in recent years, and the elections have demonstrated that the tendency is growing—of voting for Democratic local tickets and for Republican National tickets. Ballot laws make it easier than of yore to split tickets. East of the Mississippi River the Democrats have nominated more conservative men for office, men who are supposed to be more in accord with the masses of Democratic voters of their section than Mr. Bryan is. Then the Republican State Governments have not been as satisfactory in their administration of public affairs as the Republicans have been, on the whole, in Washington.

On the other hand, while efforts to get the Republicans into the thick of the campaign thoroly united have been only partially successful, the minority party has not been so harmonious, outwardly at least, for many, many years. Every week has been adding something to their compactness as a voting army. Mr. Bryan and his lieutenants, of course, are making the most of this. Hence their broad smiles and their predictions that "All we need to do is to hold what we already have."

Coupled with other recent political events, the decision of Nominee Taft to go upon the stump in the West is very significant at this stage of the Presidential campaign. It means that the pro-Bryan sentiment in that section is largely identical with the pro-Roosevelt sentiment, and that the voters who are obcessed with the Roosevelt-Bryan ideas are by no means yet convinced that Taft would be the preferable occupant of the White House for the next four years. It also means that the radical Western sentiment, which cropped out so prominently at the Chicago Convention, has not receded, as numerous wise prophets claimed that it would do.

Polls have been taken already in some of the Western States. By this and by other means of determining the political trend, the Republican leaders, State and local, have fathomed something of the depth and direction of the currents. They have immediately reported and put in their appeals for help, which in turn have gone up to Chairman Hitchcock and by him made plain to Mr. Taft. Now Mr. Taft and his lieutenants are deliberating whether the plans for a front-porch campaign exclusively, as far as the nominee is concerned, should be changed, with Mr. Hitchcock already admitting publicly the "possibility" that they will be. If the early September polls and reconnoitering had disclosed satisfactory enthusiasm for the nominee and a general alignment of the normal Republican strength for him, the change would not be proposed. Mr. Taft would follow the precedents of Republican Presidential nominees ever since the disastrous Blaine campaign of 1884, and pass the months of September and October in his home city of Cincinnati.

Prospects of a Close Campaign.

The Washington politicians do not infer from these striking developments that Bryan is going to be elected. They only recognize the prospects of a close campaign, and that the necessity is right at hand for the most aggressive and determined combat the Republicans have made since 1896, memorable in all Presidential campaign annals. They see in it the possibility, not the probability, that blocks of Western States may flock to Bryan and make his electoral total so close to one-half of the entire college as to be uncomfortable. Then with the radical Western sentiment for Bryan running unchecked all thru the preliminary stages of the campaign and probably, according to reports here, increasing, the imperative demands upon the National leaders to check it are recognized.

The batteries of heavy artillery Chairman Hitchcock has been assembling can be utilized on this Western situation only to a limited degree. Very few of the orators of a National reputation can help much with the voters in the storm belt country between the Pennsylvania line and the Missouri River, not to mention the many States of small voting population farther westward. The voters out that way who bolt tickets are the progressives. They have been educated to believe that Roosevelt and Bryan are the two greatest Americans, and that Fairbanks, Foraker, Knox and Cannon are reactionaries. The latter classification was dinned into their ears during the Taft campaign for the Presidential nomination. Fairbanks and Cannon can help some, possibly, by speaking in their respective States of Indiana and Illinois, but the great demand in the Western States will be for earnest orators, such as La Follette and Cummins.

There is probably some method in Bryan's plans to tour thru the Eastern country before the 1st of October, so that he can be back home to take care of the eminent Republican spellbinders to be sent thru that territory in the last month of the campaign. Ex-Secretary Shaw, one of the party's ablest and most adroit stumpers, used to be a great card in all the Mississippi Valley, but he has been so thoroly identified with the stand-pat and "reactionary" faction that a large element of the Republican voters of the West take little stock in him. Usually the Vice Presidential candidate is available for eloquent service on the Western circuit, but it is said here to be doubtful whether Mr. Sherman will speak much this year beyond the Mississippi. With the West's present frame of mind there is a disposition to regard the efforts of that class of orators in behalf of Taft's election as confirmation of the charges made by Bryan, as well as by some eminent Republicans of the East, that Taft is a conservative.

The Situation Unfolds.

The situation, as it is now unfolding, seems to assure more than ever a very hard-fought campaign East and West. The Democratic prospects in the East, whatever they may be, will become cleared within the next 10 or 15 days, during which the nominations for the State tickets in New York will be made and the effect of Bryan's tour will be measured. The Republican managers are manifestly aware of this. They see that the time for herculean campaigning approaches, and are determined that Taft, the nominee, should get into the thick of the fight.

The greatest scare that ever frightened the Republican Congressional Committee in the 14 years it has been winning a continuous series of victories now pervades the New York headquarters, where its officials hold forth. The last big scare, that was a real scare, came a few weeks before the election in 1902. The conditions that produced it then were overcome by herculean work. They are hopeful that the feat can now be duplicated. At least they propose to put forth the effort.

The news has leaked this way by committee employes and officials, who came from New York for a holiday covering the labor celebration period. Practically all the officials and employes of the committee are connected with the National House in some capacity.

The Congressional Campaign.

Republicans in the vicinity of Washington would be skeptical of the alarm cry did it not come from such reliable sources. They still believe that the Republican Congressional Committee officials, who are not the seasoned men that have been at the helm for a number of years, have taken counsel overmuch of their fears, and that the conditions canot be quite as bad as have been pictured. It is pointed out here that with the revival of the Republican Presidential campaign, which is certain to come with the appearance of big orators on the stump, especially with the starting of Nominee Taft on a long speaking tour, the Congressional campaign for the control of the House in the 61st Congress will also look up.

The Congressional Committee has ways of its own, outside of the State and National polls, for ascertaining the trend of thought among the voting population. It keeps watch especially on the close Congressional districts, which this year number about 75 out of the total of 391. The committee confines its campaign practically to those 70-odd close districts and leaves the others alone. The reports coming in from Republican candidates for Congress from those close districts—nearly all those districts have now made nominations for the House—are far from satisfactory. The same story of a trend toward Bryan all thru the West that the Republican National Committee has been discovering is coming to the Congressional Committee.

Its officials do not know just how pronounced this change is likely to be or how difficult it will be to check it. Those uncertainties contribute to their anxiety. They are well aware that the hostility to Speaker Cannon and his House lieutenants, which continues unabated in the West, aggravates the situation even beyond that the National Committee has to deal with. With the fears now prevailing that Taft's election will be by a close vote, because of the trans-Allegheny uprising, the Congressional sachems argue of the possibility, even probability, that Republican candidates for the House will run behind Taft. In these tempestuous political times there is no telling what freakish things the Western voters may do. As has been frequently pointed out, the party control of the next House must virtually be decided in the West. The Democrats will do well to hold all they now have in the East. Not only the pro-Bryan wave, but the anti-Cannon wave, just now seem to be sweeping the six or eight populous Western States, now very largely represented in the House by Republicans. The loss of three or four Congressional seats in each of the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska would mean the loss of

(Continued on page three.)

The Situation in New York.